

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 01214 261501Z
ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-07 INRE-00 SS-15
SSO-00 SSM-05 IO-14 SP-02 PM-05 H-02 L-03 /067 W
-----028760 261507Z /70

O R 261354Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 855
NSC WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 1214

USIAC

USIA FOR IOP/M, INA, IBS, IPS; STATE FOR S/PRS AND PA (HODDING
CARTER); DEPT PASS NSC FOR BRZEZINSKI; WHITE HOUSE FOR POWELL;
JERUSALEM FOR ATHERTON

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L)
SUBJ: REMARKS TO PRESS OF ASSISTANT SECSTATE ATHERTON AFTER
MEETING WITH PM BEGIN, THURS 1-26-78

1. Q: WILL YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR TALKS WITH THE PM?

2. A: WE'VE HAD A VERY GOOD TALK TODAY, THIS WAS IN THE
NATURE OF CONTINUING THE CONTACTS THAT I'VE BEEN HAVING SINCE
I CAME, WE DISCUSSED QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE RESUMPTION
OF THE PEACE PROCESS, THE FORTHCOMING RESUMPTION
OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, SHOULD THAT FINALLY BE RE-ARRANGED,
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AND ALSO MY OWN ROLE IN TRYING TO BE HELPFUL BETWEEN THE TWO
GOVERNMENTS WITH REGARD TO THE MATTERS THAT WERE UNDER
DISCUSSION EARLIER IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

3. Q: HAVE YOU COME TO AN AGREEMENT ON THE DECLARATION OF
PRINCIPLES AT LEAST AS FAR AS THE ISRAELIS ARE CONCERNED?

4. A: WELL I THINK I HAVE A VERY GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THE ISRAELI VIEWS ARE, I WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO CONVEY THIS TO THE AUTHORITIES IN CAIRO AND SEE WHAT THEIR POSITION IS.

5. Q: ARE YOU INTENDING TO GO TO CAIRO?

6. A: I ANTICIPATE THAT I WILL GO TO CAIRO, PROBABLY EARLY NEXT WEEK FOR A CONTINUATION OF THIS PROCESS.

7. Q: MR ATHERTON, PRESIDENT SADAT SAID THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE, OR HE INTIMATED SUCH. DO YOU FIND EVIDENCE OF THAT HERE?

8. A: YES, I THINK SO, I THINK THAT AS A RESULT OF THESE TALKS WE HAVE HELPED MOVE MATTERS FORWARD, AT LEAST A BIT.

9. Q: DO YOU EXPECT THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE TO RESUME IT'S DELIBERATIONS?

10. A: I THINK IT'S PREMATURE TO REACH ANY JUDGEMENTS ABOUT THAT.

11. Q: WHAT (ARE THE) CHANCES OF RECONVENING THE MILITARY TALKS NEXT WEEK?

12. A: WELL I THINK THAT'S A QUESTION THAT I REALLY SHOULD UNCLASSIFIED

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LEAVE TO THE GOVT OF ISRAEL, WHOSE DECISION THIS WILL BE.

13. Q: DO YOU INFORM PRESIDENT CARTER ON THIS?

14. A: WELL, KEEP SECRETARY VANCE INFORMED OF COURSE, WHO IN TURN KEEPS THE PRESIDENT FULLY INFORMED.

15. Q: MR ATHERTON, WHAT IS YOUR NEXT STEP NOW?

16. A: WELL MY NEXT STEP IS, AS I SAID, TO GO TO CAIRO, AND I ANTICIPATE THIS WILL BE EARLY NEXT WEEK, TO CONTINUE THE ROLE THAT I HAVE BEEN PLAYING.

17. Q: (QUESTION INAUDIBLE)

18. A: I THINK PERHAPS I'D BETTER NOT GET INTO ANY MORE DETAILS ON THESE TALKS; THEY ARE VERY USEFUL BUT PART OF THE USEFULNESS IS IN MAINTAINING THE QUIET DIPLOMACY THAT WE ARE TRYING TO CONDUCT.

19. WILL YOU BE TAKING A MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT SADAT?

20. I THINK I WILL HAVE NO MORE COMMENTS. - THANK YOU.
LEWIS

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NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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